

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

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To the Urban District Council of Bradford-on-Avon.

Mr. Chairman, Madame and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Public Health of the Bradford-on-Avon Urban District for the year 1943.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

JEAN MURRAY.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in Acres	2005
Population (estimated 1938)	5000
Number of Inhabited houses	1544
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1948.	£23,404
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£95

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	M.	F.	Total
<u>Births:</u>			
Live Births - Legitimate	57	49	106
Illegitimate	6	1	7
Total	63	50	113
Still Births : (All Legitimate)	3	0	3
Live Birth Rate	20.47	per 1000 population	
Compare Live Birth Rate E & W.	16.5	"	"
Still Birth Rate	0.54	"	"
Compare Still Birth Rate E & W.	0.54	"	"
<u>Deaths:</u>			
from all Causes	27	38	65
Deaths of Infants under 1 year			
- Legitimate	0	1	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total		1	1
Death Rate	11.75	per 1000 population	
Compare Death Rate E & W.	12.1	"	"
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.	8.8	"	"
Compare Death Rate of Infants under 1 year E & W.	.49	"	"
There were no deaths from Enteritis & Diarrhoea under 2 years of age.			
Compare Death Rate E & W.	5.3	"	"

<u>Analysis of Deaths from all Causes.</u>	M.	F.	Total
1. Typhoid & Paralysis	0	0	0
2. Cerebro Spinal	0	0	0
3. Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	0	0
5. Diphtheria	0	0	0

Analysis of Deaths from all Causes (contd.)

	M.	F.	Total
6. Tub. Resp. System.	0	3	3
7. Other forms Tub.	0	1	1
8. Syphilitic diseases	0	1	1
9. Influenza	4	1	5
10. Measles	0	0	0
11. Ac. Poliohyd: Polio Enceph.	0	0	0
12. Ac. Inf. Enceph.	0	0	0
13. Cancer Bac. lav.Ors. & Ulcers	0	1	1
14. Cancer Stom. & Duodenum	0	1	1
15. " of Breast	0	1	1
16. " all other sites	1	1	2
17. Diabetes	0	0	0
18. Intracranial Vascular Lesions	2	2	4
19. Heart disease	10	16	26
20. Other disease of Circ. Syst.	0	0	0
21. Bronchitis	1	2	3
22. Pneumonia	2	0	2
23. Other Resp. Diseases	0	0	0
24. Ulcer of Stom. or Duod.	0	1	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	0	0	0
26. Appendicitis	0	1	1
27. Other Digestive Disease	0	1	1
28. Nephritis	1	2	3
29. Puerperal & Post Abort. Sepsis	0	0	0
30. Other Maternal Causes	0	0	0
31. Premature Birth	0	0	0
32. Con. Mal.: Infant Dis.	0	1	1
33. Suicide	0	0	0
34. Road Traffic Accident	1	0	1
35. Other violent causes	0	0	0
36. All other causes	5	2	7
	<u>27</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>65</u>

General Health of the Town

This has been maintained at a high level.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year viz :-

Typhoid	0
Paratyphoid	0
Scarlet Fever	6
Whooping Cough	30
Diphtheria	1
Erysipelas	0
Smallpox	0
Measles	149
Pneumonia	13
Puerperal Pyemia	1

Notes on Vital Statistics

It will be observed on comparison of all the rates, that those for the town bear a good balance in its favour over the general rates for the whole country. The birth rate is high and the death rate is low. By far the largest proportion of deaths occurring in the very high ages. For example, of the 45 deaths registered as having occurred in the town, discounting those transferred "out" and "in", 28 occurred as follows, 14 above 70, 11 above 80, 2 above 90 and one of 100 years.

The birth rate of the town itself is very high. It will be understood that any birth occurring in the town where the mother

had come from another district is not included, in technical terms such a case is "transferred out" at the end of each quarter.

The death rate for infants is very low.

Infectious Diseases

During the year a large number of Measles were notified. There were few cases with complications and no deaths. Among the rather large number of Whooping Cough cases there again were few with complications. Under the very poor conditions in which many of the families are forced to exist (lack of amenities in the way of ready access to water and sanitary conveniences,) it says a great deal for the care exercised by the parents in nursing such cases that so few complicated cases arose.

Owing to the death of Mr. R.B. Lees the Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector there are not the usual figures of inspections. It would be wrong for me to conclude this report without expressing the deepest regret at its occurrence and tragic manner of its happening. As his Assistant was in hospital, Mr. Lees insisted on carrying on with his work, attending the Office when obviously unfit and refusing to give up until his colleagues called a doctor, who immediately ordered him home to bed. He died the same night. The manner of his death exemplified his manner of living and working. Nothing was allowed to interfere with his duties, and he undertook all the extra work entailed by the war with uncomplaining and unremitting efficiency. In small areas, the number of officials is also small; and he not only undertook all the extra administrative work but took his share of long night watches with the men, in the same unostentatious manner in which he had worked for so many years.

